



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: October 11, 2007

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The September minutes were e-mailed to everyone. Any suggested edits to the September minutes should be forwarded to Sharon O'Toole (MAEL).

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: No new updates. Most of the OQA was away at a conference.

PT Program: Peter Boughton (NJDEP/OQA) stated that to prevent problems with the PTs, everyone should check their PT invoices. Terrie McIntyre (Merck) reported labs are not getting all their PTs. It was discussed how the communication between the OQA and the labs is poor; PT cover letters are not clear. It was also brought up the range for the PTs is not valid for labs or MUAs.

The aqueous samples for the October SHW PT should ship this Friday (10/12) and the soil samples will ship next week (10/19). If your laboratory does not receive the samples within three days of these dates, or if you receive any broken or incorrect samples, you need to contact ERA.

A reminder that payment for the December WP PT study must be received by 10/31/07. If payment is not received by that date, samples will not be ordered for your laboratory.

The invoices, announcement letter and cost tables for the January WS PT study were mailed. Payment for the study is due by 11/16/07. If payment is not received by that date, samples will not be ordered for your laboratory.

TNI (The NELAC Institute) Update: The next meeting is to be held in Newport. Updates can be found on the TNI website: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/>

Communications and OQA Website: The 2007 ELAC minutes still have not been posted. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported they had been sent to Tom Chepiga (NJDEP/OQA) in July but still are not posted. They will be sent to him again.

Bioassay: No report

NJQLs: Peter Boughton (NJDEP/OQA) stated there was no report as they are still waiting on programming issues, which are not a high priority for the contractor. Pete said OQA would update the labs when there is any new information

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: No report.

PWTA: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) reported E2 has been down since last Friday, due to a power outage. They hope to have it back up today and will send an e-mail to all when it is back up. There is a new log-on screen, which is self-explanatory, but a letter explaining this is to go out.

John reported the regulations sunset last month with a 180-day extension. They are expected to be adopted as is with the addition of arsenic testing for Warren and Sussex counties. The comment portion closes November 30, 2007 with adoption March 30, 2008 if no problems.

As Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) was not at the meeting, John reported the perchlorate rule is close to being finalized, with the MCL of 5 ppb. The hold time will be two days, notification in two weeks if the MCL is exceeded.

The Ground Water rule is effective December 1, 2009. When finalized, letters will go out to everyone.

John also reported the schedules for the public water systems, by county, is on the website. Code for each POE will have to be on the forms. The new PWTA spreadsheet, v.3.4, has a pull down menu for municipalities property information. Harvey Klein (GSL) stated these forms are poorly designed. You have to choose the county and then the municipality on each spreadsheet. He said the same town/county must be on both spreadsheets, otherwise it will fail. John stated the forms will change as there are problems when analyzing but they will not reject results now. It was suggested since the GPS data for the wells must be entered, let the system pull the county and town from that.

Tom Cady (HC-V), ELAC Chairperson asked the body if they wanted the committee to make an official recommendation. It was decided an official recommendation was not wanted.

It was reported that Karen Fell (NJDEP/BSDW) was the rule manager for perchlorate. It was added the perchlorate might need an MDL of 1 ppb for the MDL of 5 ppb.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/ODQ) reported that only one phone call has come concerning the switch from 418.1 to DRO & QAM and no problem from labs. Currently the limits are 10,000 for total and 1,000 for volatiles and the new tech rules will change to health-based standards. It will take about another 18 months for the new tech regs. It was stated the QAM results are no longer called Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons. Labs should call them "Petroleum Products" or "Extractable hydrocarbons." Greg reported the NJDEP is looking at the Massachusetts method - carbon ranges for aromatic and alicyclic compounds. He added this is very far down the line. Greg stated DRO is not acceptable if from an unknown source. If combined source, some may want GRO, but volatile organics is recommended. Since most work is #2 fuel oil or diesel, so there is not a problem.

Greg reported the NJSCC will be promulgated possibly in May 2008 (Greg will e-mail Tom Cady (HC-V), ELAC Chairperson with the specific date. Labs are to purge soil directly, rather than using methanol using 1) Encor or 2) heated purge.

Tom Cady (HC/V), ELAC Chairperson reported Commissioner Jackson said at the NJBIA, big changes were going to happen in SRP, where there is a backlog of about 12,000 cases. Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/ODQ) said it was actually about 19,000 cases. Tom added the Commissioner spoke of a “lack of reasonableness” and is looking into what Massachusetts has – licensed professionals for the simpler cases. It was discussed how much of this is a political reaction as opposed to scientific or regulatory. Greg said they are considering the overtime route as opposed to outside contractors.

New Business:

Harvey Klein (GSL) reported the NJDEP now has guest wireless service, separate from the Internet wifi. Cell phone service is not required for laptop Internet connection in the NJDEP building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on November 8, 2007 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.